specifically for. forest regeneration and protection. This could be the Panchayat or the Cooperative of the village, with n_0 restriction on membership. It could also be a Village Forest Committee. In no cas_e should any access or tree pattas be given to individuals.

(v) The beneficiaries should be given usufructs like grasses, lops and tops of branches, and minor forest produce. If they successfully protect the forests, they may be given a portion of the proceeds from the sale of trees when they mature. (The Government of West Bengal has issued orders to give 25 per cent of the sale proceeds to the Village Forest Protection Co-™:ttees. Similar norms may be adopted by other States).

(vi) Areas to be selected for the programme should be free from the claims (including existing rights, privileges, concessions) of any person who is not a beneficiary under the scheme. Alternatively, for a given site the selection of beneficiaries should be done in such a way that any one who has a claim to any forest produce from the selected site is not left out without bteiingt given full opportunity of joining.

(vii) The selected site should be worked in accordance with a Work ing Scheme, duly approved by the State Government. Such scheme may remain in operation for a period °f 10 years and revised/ renewed after that. The Working Scheme should be prepared in con sultation with the beneficiaries. Apart from protection of the site, the said Scheme may prescribe re quisite operations, e.g. inducement to natural regeneration of existing root sock, seeding, gap filling, and wherever necessary intensive planting, soil-moisture conservation measures etc. The Working Scheme should also prescribe other operations e.g. fire-protection maintenance of boundaries, weeding, tending, cleaning, thinning etc.

(viii) For raising nurseries, preparing land for planting and protecting the trees after planting, the beneficiaries should be paid by the Forest Department from the funds under the social forestry programme. However, the village community may obtain funds from other Government agencies and sources for undertaking these activities.

(ix) It should be ensured that there *'.9* no grazing at all in the forest land protected by the village community. Permission is cut and carry grass free of cost should be given so that stall feeding is promoted.

(x) No agriculture should be permitted on the forest land.

(xi) Alongwith trees for fuel, fooder and timer, the village community may be permitted to plant such fruit trees as would fit in with the overall scheme of afforests tion, such a_s aonla. Imli, mango, mahua etc. a_s well as shrubs, legumes and grasses which would meet local needs, help soil and water conservation, and enrich the degraded soils/ land. Even indigenous medicinal plants rna_v he grown according to the requirement and preference of beneficiaries.

(xii) Cutting of trees should not be permitted before they are ripe for harvesting. The forest department also should not cut the trees on the forest land being protected by the village communities except in the manner prescribed in the Working Scheme. In case of emergency needs, the village communities should be taken into confidence.

(xiii) The benefit of people's narticipation should go to the vii-' lage communities and not to commercial or other interests which